

DRAFT

Town of Weare Finance Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of February 13, 2013

This meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Conservation Room of the Weare town office building. It was called to order by the chairman at 7:07 p.m.

Present were Kate Cloud (chairman), Jill Dagenais, Gregg Elwood, Johnna Gryzwacz, Neal Kurk, Ike Shepard, Jeff Spring and Matt Whitlock. Guests included Fire Chief Bob Vezina, Conservation Commission members Andy Fulton, George Malette, and Wendy Stevens and Jeff Jackson.

1. Town Warrant Art. 12 (fire turnout gear): Chief Vezina explained it was unlikely the town would be awarded the grant it sought to pay for 23 sets of turnout gear but that, regardless, the gear was necessary if all fire fighters were to be able to deal with dangerous situations.

2. Town Warrant Articles: the Committee reviewed again all of its recommendations, voting on each as follows:

Art. 4: on a motion by Kate, seconded by Jeff, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 5: on a motion by Kate, seconded by Jeff, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 6: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 6 – 1 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 7: on a motion by Kate, seconded by Jeff, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 8: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 9: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

Art 10: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 4 – 3 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 11: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 4 – 3 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 12: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Gregg, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

At this point, the Committee heard from Conservation Committee members about Art. 25 (\$35,000 from the forest account for land acquisition). Without divulging the property they were contemplating purchasing, they explained the purpose of the acquisition and some of the characteristics of the property under consideration. The Committee then turned its attention to town warrant articles.

Art. 13: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 14: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Ike, voted 6 – 0 – 2 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 15: on a motion by Neal, seconded by Gregg, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 16: on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Johnna, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article

Art. 17: on a motion by Johnna, seconded by Kate, voted 4 – 2 – 2 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 18: on a motion by Matt, seconded by Johnna, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 19: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 20: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Johnna, voted 6 – 1 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 21: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 22: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Johnna, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 23: on a motion by Johnna, seconded by Matt, voted 5 – 2 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 24: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Johnna, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 25: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Ike, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 29: on a motion by Kate, seconded by Neal, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 30: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Ike, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

After the vote on each article, members reviewed and, in some cases, rewrote brief explanations of the articles. These so-called blurbs will appear in the town mailing presenting and explaining warrant articles.

3. John Stark Regional School District Warrant Articles: the Committee next reviewed again all of its recommendations on John Stark warrant articles, voting on each as follows:

Art. 3: on a motion by Matt, seconded by Kate, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 4: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Gregg, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 5: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 6 – 0 – 2 to RECOMMEND the article.

After the vote on each article, members reviewed and, in some cases, rewrite brief explanations of the articles. These so-called blurbs will appear in the town mailing presenting and explaining warrant articles.

4. Weare School District Warrant Articles: the Committee next reviewed again all of its recommendations on Weare School District warrant articles, voting on each as follows:

Art. 1: on a motion by Jeff, seconded by Kate, voted 6 – 0 – 2 to RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 4: on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Jeff, voted 6 – 1 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 5: on a motion by Kate, seconded by Ike, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 6: on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Jeff, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 7: on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Jeff, voted 7 – 0 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

Art. 8: a motion by Gregg, seconded by Kate, to recommend the article failed, 3 -- 4 -- 1. On a motion by Jeff, seconded by Johnna, voted 5 – 2 – 1 to **NOT** RECOMMEND the article.

After the vote on each article, members reviewed and, in some cases, rewrite brief explanations of the articles. These so-called blurbs will appear in the town mailing presenting and explaining warrant articles.

The Committee determined that its recommendations would likely result in the following 2013 property tax rate:

John Stark:	\$6.68
Weare Schools	8.93
Town	3.77
State education	2.30
County	<u>1.09</u>
	\$22.77

This represents a \$2.00, or 9.6% increase over last year's \$20.77 tax rate. On a typical house assessed at \$250,000, this represents a tax increase of \$500. It was acknowledged that this rate increase would be substantially lower if John Stark's 2013 surplus is as large as it was in 2012.

The Committee authorized the chairman to write a brief overview of the Committee's decisions for the town mailer.

4. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 11:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal M. Kurk, Secretary